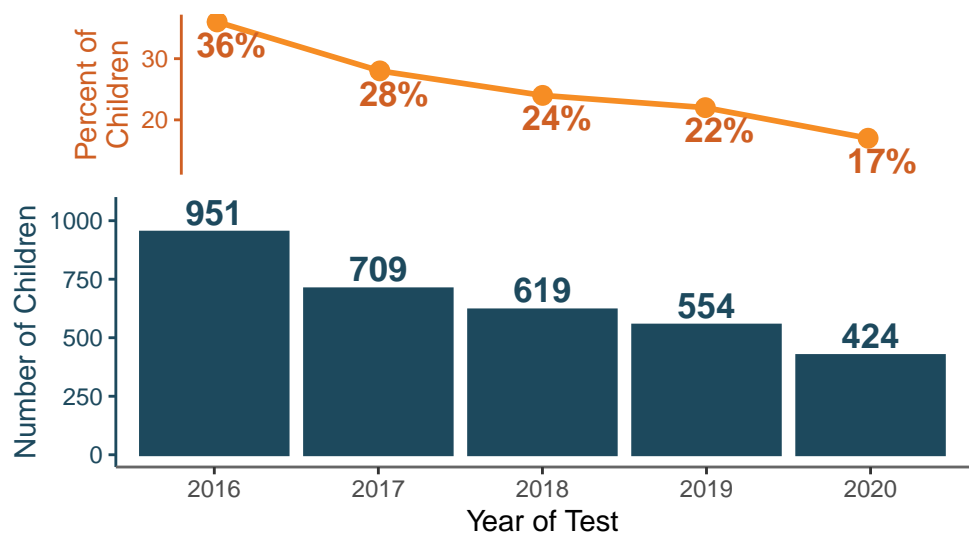


2020 LEAD EXPOSURE DATA BRIEF FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY REGION

In 2020, in the North Country Region 29 children, 72 months or younger, had blood levels high enough to impair their ability to think, learn, and concentrate.

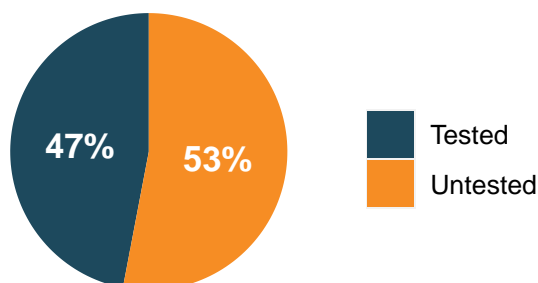
Pediatric blood lead level testing rates across the region and the State dropped due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Annual Number (and Percent) of Children, 0 to 72 Months Old, Tested for Blood Lead in the North Country Region 2016 – 2020



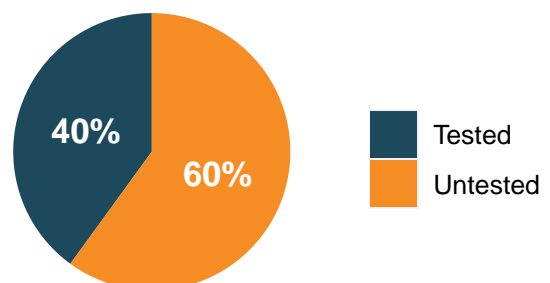
Percent of Children Tested per New Hampshire Screening and Management Guidelines

Percent of One-Year-Old Children Tested for Blood Lead



In 2020, 47% of one year-old (12–23 month-old) children residing in the North Country Region were tested for lead in their blood (190 of an estimated 402 children).

Percent of Two-Year-Old Children Tested for Blood Lead



In 2020, 40% of two year-old (24–35 month-old) children residing in the North Country Region were tested for lead in their blood (175 of an estimated 443 children).

In 2018, New Hampshire passed a state law requiring providers to conduct blood lead level tests for all one and two year-old children.

Childhood Lead Exposure by Town

TOWN	AGE GROUP (IN MONTHS)	POPULATION DPHS ESTIMATE 2019	NUMBER TESTED 2020	NUMBER WITH EBLL 5+ µg/dL 2020 ONLY	NUMBER WITH EBLL 5+ µg/dL 2016–2020
BATH	0 to 72	< 100	5	0	< 5
	12 to 23		< 5	0	< 5
	24 to 35		< 5	0	< 5
BERLIN	0 to 72	472	153	5	57
	12 to 23		79	< 5	18
	24 to 35		62	0	18
BETHLEHEM	0 to 72	135	7	< 5	< 5
	12 to 23		< 5	0	< 5
	24 to 35		< 5	< 5	< 5
COLEBROOK	0 to 72	119	12	< 5	7
	12 to 23		< 5	0	< 5
	24 to 35		7	< 5	< 5
GORHAM	0 to 72	112	28	< 5	10
	12 to 23		14	< 5	5
	24 to 35		10	0	< 5
HAVERHILL	0 to 72	235	54	10	42
	12 to 23		13	< 5	11
	24 to 35		22	6	20
LANCASTER	0 to 72	184	20	< 5	20
	12 to 23		10	< 5	12
	24 to 35		10	0	< 5
LISBON	0 to 72	< 100	6	0	13
	12 to 23		0	0	< 5
	24 to 35		5	0	5
LITTLETON	0 to 72	358	23	< 5	20
	12 to 23		11	< 5	8
	24 to 35		6	< 5	6
MILAN	0 to 72	< 100	23	0	0
	12 to 23		12	0	0
	24 to 35		11	0	0
NORTHUMBERLAND	0 to 72	118	23	< 5	10
	12 to 23		10	0	< 5
	24 to 35		12	< 5	5
STEWARTSTOWN	0 to 72	< 100	< 5	< 5	8
	12 to 23		< 5	< 5	< 5
	24 to 35		0	0	< 5
WHITEFIELD	0 to 72	117	14	< 5	16
	12 to 23		6	< 5	6
	24 to 35		5	< 5	6
NORTH COUNTRY	0 to 72	2561	424	29	228
	12 to 23		190	11	85
	24 to 35		175	12	76

Childhood blood lead test data is from the Division of Public Health Services, Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) 5+ µg/dL is defined as a venous or capillary blood test with a result of 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or higher. Exact numbers cannot be reported when there are 1–4 cases due to suppression guidelines to protect privacy.

Characteristics Associated with Increased Risk of Childhood Lead Exposure

TOWN	POPULATION UNDER 6 YO PERCENT (%)	HOUSING UNITS BUILT PRE-1950 PERCENT (%)	HOUSEHOLDS MOVED IN LAST YEAR PERCENT (%)	RENTED HOUSING UNITS W/ CHILDREN UNDER 6 YO PERCENT (%)	UNDER 6 YO LIVING BELOW FED. POVERTY LEVEL PERCENT (%)	UNDER 6 YO IN WITH NO HEALTH INSURANCE PERCENT (%)
BATH	4 ± 2	36 ± 11	0 ± 3	Not Available	10 ± 30	0 ± 29
BERLIN	4 ± 1	58 ± 5	4 ± 2	24 ± 15	20 ± 20	29 ± 17
BETHLEHEM	4 ± 1	37 ± 8	1 ± 1	51 ± 19	0 ± 15	0 ± 13
COLEBROOK	3 ± 2	34 ± 7	2 ± 2	Not Available	Not Available	0 ± 24
GORHAM	2 ± 1	41 ± 8	5 ± 4	Not Available	0 ± 26	0 ± 21
HAVERHILL	5 ± 2	32 ± 8	3 ± 4	28 ± 17	10 ± 21	0 ± 5
LANCASTER	7 ± 3	53 ± 8	5 ± 5	0 ± 13	0 ± 6	0 ± 6
LISBON	4 ± 2	43 ± 10	3 ± 3	8 ± 31	Not Available	0 ± 20
LITTLETON	4 ± 2	36 ± 9	6 ± 6	Not Available	32 ± 22	Not Available
MILAN	4 ± 2	30 ± 7	1 ± 2	Not Available	15 ± 33	0 ± 26
NORTHUMBERLAND	9 ± 3	44 ± 8	2 ± 2	Not Available	24 ± 25	0 ± 7
STEWARTSTOWN	4 ± 2	16 ± 5	5 ± 5	0 ± 41	0 ± 35	0 ± 35
WHITEFIELD	6 ± 3	38 ± 7	10 ± 6	26 ± 21	0 ± 10	0 ± 10
NORTH COUNTRY	4 ± 1	35 ± 2	4 ± 1	39 ± 11	17 ± 8	9 ± 6

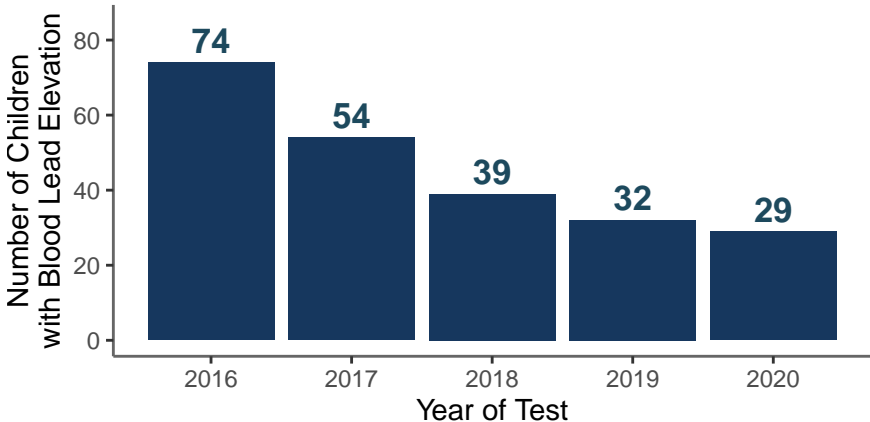
Many factors that increase the risk of a child being exposed to lead are related directly to the child's environment. Where a child and their family members live, learn, work, and play directly impact a child's risk of being exposed to lead. This exposure is primarily through coming into contact with lead dust. Living or attending childcare in pre-1978 housing increases risk as lead paint was not banned until 1978. Lead can also come from drinking water, toys, and cultural cosmetics and medicine.

The data in the table above is to help you understand the risks in your community that contribute to childhood lead poisoning and is from the 5-Year American Community Survey for 2016–2020.

Percent 'Rented Housing' was calculated from housing units with known occupancy status and age of occupants. Percent 'Living Below Poverty Level' was calculated from children in households with income less than the federal poverty level for whom poverty status was determined. When there is insufficient data to present an accurate percent range, 'Not Available' is displayed.

Childhood Lead Exposure

Annual Number of Children 0 to 72 Months Old with Test Above the National Reference Level (5+ µg/dL) North Country Region 2016 – 2020



**It only takes a speck
of lead dust the size
of a grain of salt to
poison a child**

Number of Children 0 to 72 Months Old with Elevated Blood Lead Levels 5+ µg/dL by Town (or Census Tract) in the North Country Region, 2016–2020

